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From: Weis, Christopher (NIH/NIEHS) [E]
Sent: Wed 1/29/2014 10:06:34 PM
Subject: FW: HOTSITE REPORT: Update - Freedom Industries, Charleston, WV; update on formaldehyde

From: "Werner, Lora" <Werner.Lora@epa.gov<mailto:Werner.Lora@epa.gov>>
Date: Wed, 29 Jan 2014 21:06:19 +0000
To: "Kapil, Vikas (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)" <vck3@cdc.gov<mailto:vck3@cdc.gov>>, "Cseh, Larry (ATSDR/DTHHS/OD)" <loc3@cdc.gov<mailto:loc3@cdc.gov>>, "Scheel, Christian (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH)" <bjn2@cdc.gov<mailto:bjn2@cdc.gov>>
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Subject: FW: HOTSITE REPORT: Update - Freedom Industries, Charleston, WV; update on formaldehyde

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Ex. 5 - Deliberative

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From: Burns, Francis
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 3:43 PM
To: Werner, Lora; Helson, Robert; Markiewicz, Karl
Subject: FW: WV - formaldehyde presence reported in water tests

FYI

From: Miller, Linda

Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 3:30 PM

To: Ferrell, Mark; Burns, Francis; Arguto, William; Wisniewski, Patti-Kay; Hodgkiss, Kathy; Casillas, Laura; Snyder, Raquel; Distefano, Nichole; Capacasa, Jon; Pomponio, John; White, Terri-A; Seneca, Roy; Heron, Donna; Smith, Bonnie; Forren, John

Subject: RE: WV - formaldehyde presence reported in water tests

Third article has important perspective from Secretary Huffman. Mark - thanks so much for keeping us all on the pulse of things there! Linda

UPDATED: DEP officials unaware of connection between formaldehyde and spill

Marshall professor says 'what we know scares us, and we know there's a lot more we don't know' by Dave

Boucher<<http://www.charlestondaily.com/News/contact/qnivq.obhpure+qnvylznvyji+pbz+return=/News/201401290055>>

Daily Mail Capitol Bureau Chief

Advertiser

Updated (2:30 p.m.): The head of the state Department of Environmental Protection questioned a report that formaldehyde found in Charleston tap water is connected to the recent chemical spill.

"We are not aware of formaldehyde being an issue related to the tank spill," DEP Secretary Randy Huffman said Wednesday afternoon.

"Formaldehyde is in a lot of stuff, and so I'm not sure, we're unaware of any relationship...of the formaldehyde to the tanks at Freedom," he said.

"I absolutely don't want to downplay the significance for the potential of formaldehyde in any way."

Earlier Wednesday Dr. Scott Simonton, vice chairman of the West Virginia Environmental Quality Board and a Marshall University professor, told lawmakers he had test results showing formaldehyde in water from a restaurant in downtown Charleston.

At least 10,000 gallons of crude MCHM and PPH spilled from a faulty storage tank owned by Freedom Industries near the Elk River. Officials found the leak Jan. 9, but experts believe it would have taken at least 20 hours for that amount of chemical to leak from the tank.

The results for three different samples taken Jan. 13 at Vandalia Grille show 32 or 33 micrograms per liter of formaldehyde in the water. Simonton said results from many other samples taken from many other places are still being processed.

"It scares me a lot, because it's a known human carcinogen, so any exposure, no matter how slight, is going to increase cancer risks" Simonson said after the legislative meeting.

"Now, that increased risk can be terribly, terribly small. The problem is, we're seeing it in water, we don't know what the concentration is in air."

Huffman questioned the ability for Simonton to connect any formaldehyde at the restaurant to the spill.

"He turned on a spigot, and he measured formaldehyde from a spigot in a restaurant...from a distribution system. It needs to be traced back from there to a potential source," Huffman said.

He explained what he meant later in the interview.

"The way you do that is to start backwards from where you found the material. It may be unique to the restaurant, it may be unique to West Virginia American Water. If it is something that they're getting, that West Virginia American Water is getting in their intake, then certainly we will assist with that," Huffman said.

Once the crude MCHM comes in contact with anything--water, sunlight, skin--it can breakdown, Simonton told lawmakers. One of those products is methanol, and formaldehyde is a product of methanol, he said. He acknowledged formaldehyde could come from anywhere, but it's very likely these results are directly related to the spill.

"If we go out to the extreme, it could have been put there by martians," Simonton said.

"But the most likely scenario is a breakdown of MCHM."

State and water company officials have only discussed testing for crude MCHM and PPH. Huffman experts need to have an idea of what to test for in order to test for it.

Any further examination regarding formaldehyde in the water falls under the purview of state health officials, he said.

"If they think there's a raw source of formaldehyde in the river or something, that's obviously something

we would get engaged in," Huffman said.

"But the breakdown of the chemical when it gets into the water system and whatever it turns into, that would clearly be something that the health department regulates."

A spokeswoman for the state Department of Health and Human Resources did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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From: Ferrell, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 2:35 PM
To: Burns, Francis; Arguto, William; Wisniewski, Patti-Kay; Hodgkiss, Kathy; Casillas, Laura; Snyder, Raquel; Distefano, Nichole; Capacasa, Jon; Pomponio, John; Miller, Linda; White, Terri-A; Seneca, Roy; Heron, Donna; Smith, Bonnie; Forren, John
Subject: WV - formaldehyde presence reported in water tests

Time
<http://nation.time.com/2014/01/29/west-virginia-official-people-are-inhaling-formaldehyde/>

Gazette
<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401290053>

Daily Mail
<http://www.charlestdailymail.com/News/201401290055>

Mark Ferrell

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From: Burns, Francis
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 3:31 PM
To: R3 HOTSITES
Subject: HOTSITE REPORT: Update - Freedom Industries, Charleston, WV

OSCs Matlock and Linden reported that during a Multi-Agency Briefing at the WV American Water Company, the National Guard Civil Support Team announced that they will start sampling the 233 schools identified on the WVAWC distribution system within the 9 impacted counties. They will be collecting one sample per school from the kitchen sink.

EPA will be taking split samples on January 29 along with WV DEP and CEC, the facility's remediation contractor, from the collection trench, a seep behind the secondary containment area, and four monitoring wells down gradient of the tank farm. The Ft. Meade Lab is ready to run the samples (5-7 sample locations). The sampling will depend on the amount of water that has accumulated in the sumps. The samples will be analyzed for MCHM/PPH and total VOCs.

The facility is collecting clean water originating off-site into a dike at the perimeter of the facility and per agreement with WVDEP the water will be used to dilute the glycerin to produce a component of antifreeze. The product will be shipped to the facility's customers. The material is stored in tank 399.

The local media reported that a Marshall University professor found formaldehyde in a drinking water sample from a restaurant in Charleston, WV. EPA is reaching out to the professor to identify his sampling and analytical methods.

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